

Money-saving tips

- Check your water meter and water bill to track your water usage. Being aware of how much you use is the first step in water conservation.
- Use your water meter to check for hidden water leaks. Read the house water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
- Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators.
- Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets, and couplings. Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they're not as visible. Check frequently to keep them drip-free. Use hose washers at spigots and hose connections to eliminate leaks.

Did you know?

Did you know that an American home can waste, on average, 11,000 gallons of water every year due to running toilets, dripping faucets, and other household leaks? According to the Environmental Protection Agency, nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from U.S. homes each year. Use the valuable water-saving tips in this brochure and check for many more tips and ideas on the City website at www.lakevillemn.gov.

Water is too valuable to waste.

Water facts

- In 2013, Lakeville pumped 2.29 billion gallons of water.
- Water covers 70 percent of the earth's surface.
- Ninety-seven percent of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable.
- Two percent is locked in ice caps or glaciers.
- One percent remains to meet all of humanity's needs.

Lakeville watering ordinance

Residents may water every other day, using an odd/even schedule. If your house number ends in an odd number, you may water on odd numbered days of the month. If your house number ends in an even number, you may water on even numbered days of the month. In addition, you may only water before 11 a.m. and after 5 p.m.

Remember:

**Just because it's your day to water,
doesn't mean you should.
Water only if needed.**



www.lakevillemn.gov

Water Conservation



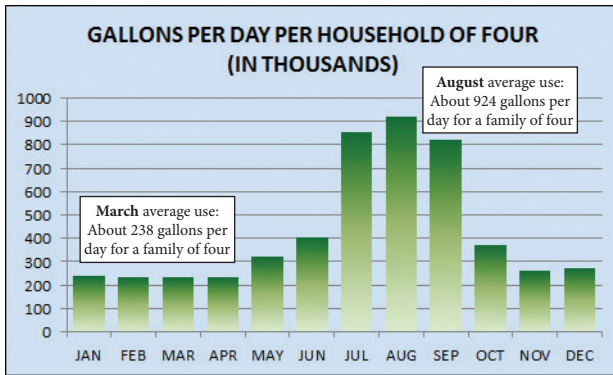
What's in it for me?

Water conservation...

Saves money

Water conservation today can save you money on your next water bill. The more you conserve, the more you save.

A family of four in Lakeville uses about 238 gallons of water per day, costing about \$25 per quarter. However, during the summer, the average use skyrockets to 924 gallons per day, per family, nearly quadrupling their quarterly bill. This high use costs a family of four about \$95 for the summer quarter.



If families used conservation measures during the summer and throughout the year, they could save more than 20 percent on their water bill. Check your water bill to see how much water you are using and calculate how much you could be saving.

Saves resources

Water is one of the most valuable resources of all. But what can one individual – or a single family – do to help? The answer is in the following water-saving tips.

You can save outdoors



Outdoor watering uses much more water than any other household activity. Individual water use nearly quadruples during the summer. Roughly half of the water used in Lakeville is used outdoors. Research suggests that much of the extra water use is wasted and that means wasted money. Here are some easy ways for you to save water and money:

- Adjust sprinklers so that only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- Always water before 11 a.m. and after 5 p.m. when temperatures are cooler, to minimize evaporation.
- Only water your lawn when it's needed. You can tell this by simply walking across your lawn. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass will reduce the loss of water to evaporation.
- Even though you are allowed to water every other day according to an odd/even schedule, it's better to water about once a week and provide about one inch of water. This will create healthier and stronger lawns. You can measure one inch by placing a tuna can about six feet away from your sprinkler and waiting for it to fill.
- Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water. Water runoff is a huge waste.

Save in your kitchen



- Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when they are full. You could save 1,000 gallons a month.
- If using a dishwasher, there is usually no need to pre-rinse the dishes.
- Soak your pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks, then every drop of water goes down you, not the drain.
- Don't run water while you clean vegetables. Just rinse them in a pan or sink of clean water.

Save in your bathroom



- When brushing your teeth, never leave tap water running. You'll save four gallons a minute and about 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
- Check your toilet for leaks. Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. Fix it and save more than 600 gallons a month.
- Avoid unnecessary toilet flushing. Flushing consumes over 25 percent of the daily household consumption of water, using about 5-7 gallons per flush. Don't use your toilet to flush away tissues, bugs, or other debris that can go in the trash instead.